

Division of Child Care
QUALITY INITIATIVES

Revised: June 2003

SCHOLARS FOR EXCELLENCE

A contract with the Regents for Higher Education placed a coordinator in each two year college who recruits, supports and mentors child care teachers in obtaining their credential, certificate or associate degree in early childhood education.

RESOURCE AND REFERRAL

Oklahoma continues to offer child care resource and referral (CCRR) services to support child care providers, assist parents in locating child care that meets their needs, serve the business community with consultation and training, and help local communities meet child care needs. Nine community-based resource and referral agencies and a state network office make up the statewide system. During the past fiscal year, the Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association placed a registered nurse in three agencies to provide child care health consultant services. Health consultants provide a variety of services through the local CCRR agency including signing families up for state health insurance, certifying children for the special needs rate, training providers on health, safety and risk management, conducting immunization audits at child care facilities, and organizing events where families can bring their children to receive required immunizations. The state network office awarded grants to four CCRR agencies to recruit and support child care providers in four Success by Six Communities. OCCRRA organized a statewide "Stand for Children" event on June 1 that recognized child care centers and family child care homes who have demonstrated a commitment to quality child care by achieving one star plus, two star and three star certifications.

CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS IN CHILD CARE

To combat the problem of young children who exhibit challenging behaviors in a child care setting that results in their dismissal from the program, the Division partnered with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS) to provide consultants to child care facilities. The project provides consultation by licensed mental health professionals to child care facilities for two hours per week in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Custer, Washita, Kay, Cleveland, Canadian, Pottawatomie, Ottawa and Delaware counties. Criteria for selection include a substantial percentage of children whose tuition is subsidized by DHS and access to a community mental health center where staff have early childhood expertise. Consultants observed classrooms, spent time with small groups of children and interviewed directors and staff. After developing a relationship with staff at the center, the consultant offers suggestions about changes that could facilitate the retention of children with challenging behaviors. This might include changes in room arrangement, altering routines, behavior management techniques, suggestions to parents for keeping the child on a regular schedule, or referrals of specific children for evaluation or additional services. Directors describe the service as "very helpful," and recommend the service to other directors. One director reported, "I don't

have a background in counseling, and the consultant helped us deal with unfamiliar demands by the children.” Another indicated, “You tend to lose perspective when you’re with kids every day. The consultant brings in a new perspective and provides professional interpretation.”

BETTER BABY CARE CAMPAIGN

The Better Baby Care Campaign is a nationwide effort to improve the early care of infants and toddlers while their parents are working, in school, or in need of out of home services. The campaign seeks to work in collaboration with existing national, state, and local organizations to bring attention to the issues and to improve the policies that govern the quality of care, parent education, family support, paid family leave and related policies. In Oklahoma, a group of representatives have convened from many different areas including the Department of Education, the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, the child care community, universities, two year colleges, Success by Six organizations, as well as others. The goal of this group is to identify areas that are in need of changes or development and to come up with strategies for improvement.

GRANTS

The Community Collaboration Grant (CCG) is a grant targeting communities with a need for high quality child care. The CCG is designed to improve the quality and expand the quantity of center-based child care available to children in low-income communities. Increasing the capacity of high quality early childhood development programs will be accomplished by adding high quality slots targeted in communities and centers serving DHS children.

WEB PAGE

A Division of Child Care web site, www.okdhs.org/childcare, provides helpful information to providers and parents. The Child Care Locator was added which assists parents in identifying child care providers by type, location, star status, and ages accepted.

CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Division of Child Care contracts with the University of Oklahoma, College of Continuing Education, for the Center for Early Childhood Professional Development (CECPD). The CECPD offers training and support initiatives to child care providers.

Oklahoma Training Approval System

The Oklahoma Training Approval System has been established to ensure that approved training and college coursework provide high quality learning opportunities for child care providers. The system is managed by the Center for Early Childhood Professional Development. They review and approve training based upon clear objectives, effective adult learning approaches, relevant content and the qualifications of the trainer to meet Tier II standards.

Oklahoma Training Approval System Educator Services

The Educator Services ensures that educators meet the qualifications to provide services to child care providers, including offering training, on-site technical

assistance, and advising candidates for national credentials. Educator members are eligible for payment for these services if they meet certain criteria.

Oklahoma Registry Early Care and Education Professional Development Ladder and Oklahoma Director's Credential

A voluntary system, this database was created to track an individual child care provider's training, education, and professional contributions based upon DHS licensing standards and the Reaching for the Stars criteria. For directors, specific administrative criteria is required to achieve a Bronze, Silver or Gold certificate. This professional development system was re-constructed to collaborate with the *R.E.W.A.R.D. Oklahoma* criteria to assist child care providers in receiving stipends.

Oklahoma Accreditation Support Project (OASP)

The Oklahoma Accreditation Support Project (OASP) helps child care programs achieve accreditation through financial support and technical assistance. One staff and 5 consultants provide monthly technical assistance visits to each site (limited support).

Video Conferences

Video-conferences provide training for participants statewide. Topics included: participative leadership; management of infant-toddler, preschool and school-age programs; and building partnerships through community collaboration.

Child Care Careers Training Series

CECPD develops, revises and distributes the Child Care Careers curriculum statewide. Training includes child care provider classes, child care center director classes, and correspondence courses for caregivers.

Entry-Level Child Care Training (ELCCT)

The 20-hour course introduces participants to the field of child care, as well as presenting basic information on providing quality child care. The course serves as the foundation for further training, including the Child Care Careers Training Series.

Director Survivor Training (DST)

The 20-hour Child Care Careers course assists directors in acquiring training hours to meet the administrative training requirement for the Reaching for the Stars criteria.

Environment Rating Scale Services (ERS)

CECPD provides environment rating scale services to child care programs striving to meet Stars criteria as well as quality improvement assessment planning of the environment provided to children in care.

Video Lending Library

CECPD maintains a statewide lending library to provide training for child care providers and training resource materials for educators.

Model Observation Sites

Selected child care centers and family child care homes serve as model demonstration sites for child care directors and teachers to visit.

Director's Leadership Academy

Directors' Leadership Academy is held and agenda topics include: Leadership Practices in Action, Team Building Initiatives (communication and conflict resolution), Leadership Practices Inventory, and On-line chat room.

T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education And Compensation Helps) Early Childhood® OKLAHOMA

T.E.A.C.H. is a program that provides scholarships to help child care providers acquire a child care credential or associate degree. Upon completion of education, the provider receives a bonus.

R.E.W.A.R.D. (Rewarding Education with Wages and Respect for Dedication) Oklahoma

R.E.W.A.R.D. is a program that provides education-based salary supplements to teachers, directors, and family child care providers working with young children. It is designed to provide children with more stable relationships and better-educated teachers by rewarding education and continuity of care.

SATTRN (SATELLITE BROADCAST)

The Division of Child Care continues to partner with DCFS to offer child care providers and resource families satellite training.